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TO KNOW AND BELIEVE: STUDIES IN THE APOSTLE'S CREED. By John McGaw Foster. Longmans.

The author's attitude toward Christian doctrine is expressed at the outset. The primary purpose of Christian doctrine is not to be an end in itself, but a means towards the establishment and development of Christian character. Though doctrine is not the 'life' or the 'body,' it is the 'meat' and the 'raiment.' Though not containing any special contribution to Christian thought, this little volume sets forth the implications of the Apostle's Creed in a clear and attractive way, and is marked throughout by good sense and balance. The facts of the Creed are developed with a steady view to their bearing upon Christian life.

PUBLIC WORSHIP IN THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER. By the Rev. C. R. D. Biggs, D.D. Longmans.

This book by the vicar of one of the Oxford city parishes, is primarily intended for the use of laymen. The author's method throughout is homiletical and explanatory. The book contains much valuable information upon the topics treated, which include the various services of the Prayer Book. It is divided into two parts, the first being historical, and the second explanatory. It is written in a fresh, interesting way, and abounds in historical and illustrative anecdote. A very useful book.

THE BIRD: ITS FORM AND FUNCTION. By C. William Beebe. New York: Henry Holt & Co.

This is another volume of the *American Nature Series*, one of which, Britton's *Trees*, was reviewed in the pages of our October issue, last year. Here we have a work that has been before the public long enough to elicit more than the critic's review, namely, the approbation of the untechnical student of science. The author is numbered among the ever-increasing host of those opposed to the scientific formalism of the past and who are fully cognizant of the need of studying facts rather than forms. In fact the book voices this revolt against traditional

methods. Instead of laying before the reader a desiccated collection of systematic terms, the writer plunges at once into an interesting discussion of the ancestral history of the bird, expounded with the aid of both palæontology and comparative anatomy. Having thus, as it were, given the *raison d'être* for the existence of birds, he takes up a detailed study of bird types. But this again is done from a standpoint, that while suiting admirably the plan of the book, is none the less novel and therefore interesting. Instead of enumerating the genera and species, as is usually done, Mr. Beebe gives us a detailed account of the varied types of bird *organs*, muscles, nerves, heads, wings, feet, beaks, tails. Thus the reader is acquainted at once with avian anatomy and physiology and with the majority of the more important species. And all this is done with admirable skill in untechnical expression. The way in which, to take a single example, Mr. Beebe coaxes the unscientific reader through a study of cranial morphology (pp. 112-115) is remarkably clever.

Aside from the form of presentation, the matter selected is in itself highly interesting. Commonplace facts are omitted, and only the striking incidents of bird life are taken. So bizarre, indeed, are some of the structures and habits mentioned, that to the uninstructed, they must appear at first reading inexplicable by the law of evolution; yet as the author clearly shows they are not so by any means. Illustrations abound, nearly all of them photographs from life by the author; and it is noted with especial satisfaction that he has been content with nothing short of the precise picture that he desired. Would that the same might be said of our biological texts.

For the student of taxonomy a fuller discussion of phylogeny might be desired than is to be found in this book—indeed such a discussion might be made one of absorbing interest; but as Mr. Beebe remarks, his book is intended simply as an invitation to the study of nature, and as such it is a very tempting one.